

Securitisation (de-securitisation) of migration on the example of Ukrainian migration to Poland and internal migration in Ukraine

Traditional research approaches are losing their explanatory potential for the research of migratory movements in Eastern Europe, following the onset of the 'proxy' conflict in Eastern Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014. Alongside this, the mass migration from Ukraine to Poland occurred, which is typically defined and studied in terms of labour migration. Our aim is to study in a 'securitisation' prism the way the armed conflict and the destabilisation of security conditions in Ukraine have influenced the actual perception and reaction towards the migrants coming from the conflict areas to the two states: Poland being the biggest destination country for Ukrainians' migrants and Ukraine, a country of origin and at the same time country hosting the great volume of internal forced migrations. Securitisation theory seeks to examine not just when and how political actors transform issues into security threats, but also what the consequences are of such a process. We attempt to examine to which extent and how the migration policies and the public discourse (not only on migration, but on the conflict and identity) actually influence migration patterns. Finally, we collide the macro-level research results with the perspective of the individual migration decisions and migration strategies of Ukrainians.